

# Convicted Penkovsky Had All Earmarks of a Model Spy

STATINTL

First of Two Articles

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Profile of a model spy: A trusted subordinate, high enough to be close to lofty circles and secrets, low enough to avoid undue attention, trained in fields of vital concern to an enemy and strongly enough motivated to take fantastic risks in the disservice of his country.

Such a man, it seems, was Oleg Vladimirovich Penkovsky, a Soviet citizen who last week was sentenced to die before a firing squad for the crime of high treason.

The court that heard his confession and testimony, and the comment lavished by the Soviet press and radio, sought to portray Penkovsky as an "envious, selfish and vainglorious"

man driven by "moral degradation" to his ugly deeds.

But if Penkovsky was that, he was far more, too. Gifted and complex, Penkovsky in his heyday was a man of great promise and charm.

## **Delicate Assignment**

His accomplishment, as revealed at his trial, was to carry on a prolonged and delicate espionage assignment in the very teeth of a security-control system of legendary repute. He even managed to spare his confessed British contactman, Greville Wynne, from an early arrest.

Even the Russian accounts of Penkovsky's trial and activities portray him as an effective agent who passed on important secrets. Here is part of what came out:

"Top secret information . . . reports . . . documents . . . of great value . . . of an economic, political and military nature and Soviet space secrets . . . Soviet troops in East Germany . . . East German peace treaty . . .

"List of generals and officers . . . command personnel of the antiaircraft defenses . . . about 5000 exposed frames . . . photographs of passes to a military establishment . . . new Soviet war material . . . atomic energy, rocket technology and the exploration of outer space."

The trial revealed that Penkovsky gave Wynne "an artillery instrument" and carried to London a Russian translation of a British book called "Rockets Now and in the Future."

The Istanbul newspaper Cumhuriyet, whose information had the ring of knowledgeable sources, further reported last week that he was accused of passing "secret documents pertaining to the Soviet Union's missile strength . . . and Chinese-Soviet relations."

Communist sources may well wish to underplay Soviet losses; non-Communist sources may want to exaggerate them. The American public may yet hear even more spectacular accounts of Penkovsky's deeds. Penkovsky, 44, was a colonel in Soviet military intelligence whose civilian "cover" was as deputy chief of the foreign section of the State Committee for Scientific Research, said Cumhuriyet.

The Committee apparently

is interested in Western research. Through it Penkovsky had contact with foreign scientists and business technicians, like Wynne. The job also let him travel abroad without question; during his espionage service, he visited London twice and Paris once and may also have gone to China.

## **Intelligence School**

A decorated officer wounded in the war, he attended the army's intelligence school ("Military - Diplomatic Academy") from 1949 to 1953, it is said. A colonel by the time he was 31, he clearly was a comer.

After service in military intelligence headquarters he was assigned to Turkey in 1955 as a military attache.

Cumhuriyet said he was "very popular in diplomatic circles" there. He left Turkey the next year, supposedly as a result of frictions with his Ankara superior, the newspaper reported.

Then, after reportedly taking a 9-month familiarization course at the Dzerzhinsky Missile-Artillery Academy, he began work with the Scientific Research Committee.

Penkovsky's immediate superior there was D. M. Gvishiani, a son-in-law of Alexei N. Kosygin, a First Deputy Premier and member of the Communist Party Presidium.

Penkovsky's chief was Gen. Ivan A. Serov, who had left the control of the secret police in 1958 to head up defense intelligence. Serov, rumored under arrest, disappeared from public view just after Penkovsky was arrested last October.

## **Close to Varonsov**

Penkovsky also was close to Gen. Sergei Varonsov, recently the artillery (rocket) commander. His great uncle, Gen. Valentin A. Penkovsky, heads Soviet forces on the East German border. His late father-in-law was a Gen. Gaponovich.

His trial identified his one-time mistress as "Galina Zakharova." Although no connection is known, the name of the chief of staff replaced two months ago was Marshal Matvei Zakharov.

Through these connections, Penkovsky was in a position to tell the West about Soviet intelligence and military strength and also about the very highest levels of Soviet officialdom.

He attended parties with Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev. At one, in the American Embassy, he even tried to make an espionage contact. As his prosecutor said: "He had access to meetings where only chosen people could go."

According to his trial, he accepted Western suggestions to "continue photographing classified materials and to meet more often his comrades among the servicemen . . . to seek new ways to collect information . . . to make new acquaintances, as possible sources of information . . ."

He got more information, he testified, by "just listening to my friends talking" and by taking note of their "drunken boasting." He also told questioners that he filched photographs from his colleagues' desks.

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